SAFETY LIGHTING FOR VEHICLE OUTSIDE MIRRORS

Having described my invention however, many modifications will become apparent to those skilled in the art to which it pertains without deviation from the spirit of the invention as defined by the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. For use in conjunction with a vehicle having outside rear viewing mirrors mounted on the right and left hand access doors toward the hinged side. A device for signaling the operation said vehicle by applying lighting as an addition to and as an integral part of the outside rear view mirror housing,comprising:

Means of attaching said signaling device to said mirror housing comprising a molded neoprene flexible plate.

Said signaling device comprising of lamp assemblies for indicating vehicle running/clearance, braking/hazard and directional signals.

Means of supplying directional and hazard signals from a switch assembly on the steering mechanism of said vehicle.

Means of connecting inputs and electronic circuitry to control functions of said signaling device.

Means of ducting all wiring for said lamp assemblies in flexible hose connecting said mirror housings to said vehicle.

2. A light reflecting metal adhesive tape attached to the base of the said mirror as defined in claim 1, and formed to fit snugly around the back and side of the said housing.

3. Formed neoprene plate as defined in claim 1, of 6o-7o durometer and molded to hold said lamp assemblies , connecting sockets and plastic lenses and also molded to form a safety bumper between the said lamp assemblies and to contain an alarm switch mounting. Also to contain a connection for said flexible hose and contain mounting holes.

4. Lamp assemblies as defined in claim 1. Consist of four light emitting diodes (L.E.D's) bulbs, close mounted in line on a printed circuit board with wired connections to a small plug. One lamp assembly indicates vehicle running and clearance and mounts on the said neoprene plate at the rear of the said mirror housing as defined in claim 1. And covered by a white plastic lens.

I claim: 4. continued,
Four lamp assemblies indicate vehicle braking/hazard and directional change, mount on the formed neoprene plate on the underside of each rear view mirror as defined in claim 1. and covered by an amber lens.

5. Switch assembly, as defined in claim 1. consists of a cast base with one on- off toggle switch for a hazard and alarm off signal, three plunger or proximity switches, each operated through a mechanical spring loaded actuator. The switches will signal, vehicle straight - ahead center switch actuated, moving - right center switch released and left switch actuated, turning - right left switch released. Returning to the straight - ahead position resets all signals. Similar for a turning - left vehicle operation, the right hand switch is actuated. The switch assembly base is mounted on the steering column and the switches tripped by a cam mounted on the steering wheel housing.

6. The directional signals as defined in claims 4. and 5. wherein the moving change of direction is signaled by the first lamp assembly, closest to the vehicle door, and wherein a turning of direction is signaled by the second, third and fourth lamp assemblies in sequence repeating until reset by a return to the straight - ahead position.
A vehicle operator turn signal interlocks with an opposite turning direction signal to switch off and over- ride the turning signal.

7. The braking signal, as defined in claim 1. connects to the vehicle 'brake on' wire, as the vehicle brake is applied the second, third and fourth lamp assemblies on both sides light simultaneously.

8. The hazard signal as defined in claim 1. connects to the vehicle 'hot at all times' wire through the on-off switch, when the switch is 'on' the second, third and fourth lamp assemblies on both sides are lit and sequence, and repeat until the hazard switch is off. The hazard signal also connects to the vehicle 'in reverse' wire, the lamps flash and sequence when the vehicle is in reverse. As defined in claim 3. the hazard signal connects to the alarm switches that are fitted as part of the safety bumpers to flash and sequence the lamps if a bumper on either side is distorted. The alarm is reset by switching the toggle switch on-off, or going through reverse.